

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT
Region 9 – Office of Public Affairs
Environmental Protection Agency
Week of Feb. 23, 2015

30-60 Day Outlook

Navajo Nation, McElmo Creek Oil Production Facility PSD Permit: By March 31, the Prevention of Significant Deterioration permit for the McElmo Creek Oil Production facility is expected to be finalized. The permit incorporates the best available control technology requirements. The facility consists of an oilfield and gas compression plant. The facility is under a federal Consent Decree for Clean Air Act violations for constructing and operating a large flare

Press Stories, Significant Policy, Regulatory, or Legal Actions

San Francisco Bay “Mystery Goo:” Region 9 OPA continues to issue a desk statement in response to media calls on the “mystery goo,” a sticky substance found in San Francisco Bay several weeks ago which has since been identified as some type of non-petroleum oil. The substance has killed some birds and investigations are ongoing. EPA R9 personnel are assisting on-site with the investigation, and our regional lab has conducted some analysis of the substance.

Cargill Salt Plant, Redwood City, Calif.: Region 9 is preparing a desk statement for any press calls related to Congresswoman Jackie Speier’s (D-San Francisco/San Mateo Counties) Feb. 12 letter to Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works Jo-Ellen Darcy, expressing concern about the upcoming USACE decision on whether the Redwood City Salt Plant site falls under the Clean Water Act and Rivers and Harbors Act. The letter warned the Army Corps against adopting an interpretation of the Clean Water Act that would be inconsistent with its past rulings and may limit EPA’s ability to regulate similar post-industrial sites nationwide. Previous Corps of Engineers determinations from 2010 and 2008 found that the Redwood City Salt Plant salt ponds are Waters of the United States under the Clean Water Act and Rivers and Harbors Act.

Arizona Regional Haze, Apache Generating Station: The week of February 23, Regional Administrator Jared Blumenfeld is expected to sign an action memo requesting the Administrator’s signature on a final rule approving revisions to Arizona’s Regional Haze State Implementation Plan to replace part of EPA’s Federal Implementation Plan (FIP). The FIP, published in December 2012, had established requirements for Best Available Retrofit Technology (BART) controls for certain units of the Apache Generating Station. This final rule establish a “better than BART” alternative that will result in overall greater visibility improvement than EPA’s previous BART determination.

Arizona New Source Review Permitting Program: The week of March 2, Regional Administrator Jared Blumenfeld is expected to sign a Federal Register notice proposing limited approval/limited disapproval of Arizona’s State Implementation Plan (SIP) submittal for a CAA New Source Review (NSR) permitting program. The submittal requests approval of Arizona’s revised NSR permitting program that includes its permitting programs for Prevention of Significant Deterioration, nonattainment NSR, and minor NSR. EPA has not approved updated

permitting rules into the SIP for Arizona since the early 1980s. As such, this package will significantly strengthen Arizona's SIP for NSR.

California Regional Haze Progress Report: The week of February 23, Regional Administrator Jared Blumenfeld is expected to sign a Federal Register notice approving California's Regional Haze 5-Year Progress Report. The Report demonstrates that its existing Regional Haze State Implementation Plan is adequate to achieve the visibility goals for all 29 Class I areas, the most of any state. California will submit a revised regional haze plan by 2018 based on a new assessment that will include new visibility goals for 2028.

Nevada, Infrastructure SIP: The week of March 2, Regional Administrator Jared Blumenfeld is expected to sign a Federal Register notice to partially approve and partially disapprove the Nevada Infrastructure SIP for 2008 ozone, 2010 nitrogen dioxide, and 2010 sulfur dioxide.

California Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan. By February 23, Region 9 is expected to issue comments on the Draft EIS for Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan, a habitat conservation plan developed by U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, BLM, CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife, and CA Energy Commission to establish a biological mitigation and conservation program for renewable energy development in 7 counties in California's desert regions. The plan area encompasses 22.5 million acres of federal and non-federal land. EPA is a cooperating agency on this high visibility project.

Federal Aggregated Solar Procurement Pilot Project RFP: In late February or early March, a Request for Proposals is expected to be issued for this innovative pilot project, the first federal project of its kind. Chaired by EPA R9, it seeks to leverage the federal government's combined purchasing power across several General Services Administration and Forest Service facilities to purchase solar energy at prices below conventional grid based electricity. The successful bidder will design, build, own and operate multiple on-site solar systems at certain federal facilities. Region 9 expects to hold a press event when the contract is awarded later this spring.

MGM Award/Tronox (Nevada): On March 6, Regional Administrator Jared Blumenfeld will participate in a press event in Las Vegas where MGM will be given the national "Food Waste Recovery" award. The region will issue a press release on the award. In addition, RA Blumenfeld will accompany Nevada Department of Environmental Protection officials on a tour of the former Tronox facility in Henderson, Nevada. EPA recently announced a multi-billion dollar settlement with Tronox/Anadarko, which provides more than \$1 billion for the clean-up of the Tronox-Henderson site, which is the source of the largest perchlorate groundwater plume in the country. Local press will be invited.

Grants

Legislative Engagement

None

Travel, Public/National Meetings, and Speaking Engagements

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